

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEL AV 08787 041502Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 OIC-02  
/104 W

-----049750 041515Z /40

P R 041358Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9107  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN NY  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A 8787

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ELAB ILO US IS  
SUBJ: UNITED STATES WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO: ISRAELI REACTION

REF: TEL AVIV 8665

1. LABATT MET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF  
LABOR AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT ARYEH GUREL ON NOV 3  
TO BRIEF HIM ON US WITHDRAWAL DECISION. THE NEW  
MINISTER, ISRAEL KATZ, ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE DIS-  
CUSSION. LABATT EXPLAINED THAT US PLANS TO KEEP A  
CLOSE WATCH ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ILO AND THAT THE  
CABINET LEVEL COMMITTEE ON THE ILO WOULD CONTINUE TO  
MEET. BOTH PRESIDENT CARTER AND GEORGE MEANY HAD  
EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US COULD CONTINUE TO  
INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ILO AND, IF ENOUGH  
PROGRESS IS MADE, RETURN.

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 08787 041502Z

2. BOTH KATZ AND GUREL ASKED FOR FORMAL OR  
INFORMAL ADVICE REGARDING WHETHER ISRAEL SHOULD  
FOLLOW SUIT AND WHAT US REACTION WOULD BE TO  
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. LABATT EXPLAINED THAT THIS  
WOULD HAVE TO BE ISRAEL'S OWN DECISION, AND THAT THE  
US WOULD UNDERSTAND ITS DECISION. HOWEVER, IF

ISRAEL WERE TO LEAVE IT MIGHT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO RETURN IN THE FUTURE. THIS COULD ALSO COMPLICATE ANY US DECISION TO RETURN.

3. GUREL THEN INFORMED THE LABATT THAT THE ILO ISSUE WOULD BE DISCUSSED THAT SAME DAY WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY, HISTADRUT AND EMPLOYER REPRESENTATIVES. FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN AND LABOR AND SOCIAL BETTERMENT MINISTER KATZ WOULD PRESENT THE ISSUE TO THE CABINET ON SUNDAY FOR A FINAL GOVERNMENT DECISION. FOLLOWING THE MEETING GUREL INFORMED US THAT THE GROUP HAD MADE A UNANIMOUS RECOMMENDATION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD: 1. NOT NOW WITHDRAW; 2. ISSUE A STRONG EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR US SUPPORT IN THE ILO AND OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE US REASONS FOR WITHDRAWING; 3. ON SUITABLE OCCASIONS DEMONSTRATE ISRAELI DISSATISFACTION WITH ILO ACTIVITIES AND PRONOUNCEMENTS RELATED BOTH TO GENERAL QUESTIONS AS WELL AS MATTERS LINKED TO THE MIDDLE EAST; AND 4. CAREFULLY MONITOR REACTIONS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

4. THE HISTADRUT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE GOVERNING BODY, GIDEON BEN ISRAEL, SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW YET WHETHER HE WOULD ATTEND THE GOVERNING BODY SESSION IN GENEVA ON NOV 15. HIS ATTENDANCE WOULD DEPEND ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DECISION. IF HE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEL AV 08787 041502Z

GOES, HE WILL ADDRESS TO GOVERNING BODY ON THE SUBJECT OF US WITHDRAWAL, AND WILL CAREFULLY PROBE THE REACTIONS AND INTENTIONS OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS, ESPECIALLY FROM THE WESTERN COUNTRIES.

5. COMMENT: ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT ISRAEL WILL DECIDE NOT TO LEAVE THE ILO NOW. HOWEVER, THE GOI WANTS SOMEHOW TO BACK ITS DECISION WITH A PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF US APPROVAL DEMONSTRATING THAT ISRAEL'S REMAINING IN THE ILO IS AT LEAST INDIRECTLY SERVING US INTERESTS. SHOULD HOSTILE PRESSURES ON ISRAEL INCREASE, HOWEVER, IT MAY EITHER REFRAIN FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION OR WITHDRAW. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
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